

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended): A method for screening ~~for an agent for which promoting promotes~~ insulin production and/or an agent ~~for that increasing increases~~ insulin content, comprising:

bringing a cell transformed with an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide and expressing the polypeptide, in which the polypeptide is selected from:

- (a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;
- (e) ~~a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and~~
- ~~(d) (c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% 95% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;~~
- or a cell membrane thereof, into contact with a substance to be tested, analyzing whether or not the polypeptide is activated, and

selecting the substance which activates the polypeptide so as to identify the agent for promoting insulin production and/or the agent for increasing insulin content.

8. (withdrawn — previously presented): A process for manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition for promoting insulin production and/or increasing insulin content, comprising:

bringing a cell expressing a polypeptide selected from:

- (a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;
 - (b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;
 - (c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and
 - (d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;
- or a cell membrane thereof into contact with a substance to be tested, analyzing whether or not the polypeptide is activated, and preparing a medicament containing the substance.

9. (withdrawn — currently amended): An agent for promoting insulin production and/or for increasing insulin content, comprising as an active ingredient a substance that activates a polypeptide selected from:

- (a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;
- (c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and
- (d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation.

10. (withdrawn — previously presented): A method for promoting insulin production and/or increasing insulin content, comprising administering to a subject a substance that activates a polypeptide selected from:

- (a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation.

11-12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of confirming that the selected substance increases insulin production and/or insulin content.

14. (canceled):

15. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the polypeptides (a) and (b).

16. (canceled):

17. (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the polypeptides (a) and (b).